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January 20, 2012

TO:

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

House Committee on Judiciary

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM:

Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director

Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT:

Testimony on H.B. No. 1927, Relating to Campaign Spending

Commission Law

Tuesday, January 24, 2012 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") strongly supports this bill and urges the Committee to expedite and pass the bill.

Section 1 of the bill amends §11-334(a)(1)(A), Hawaii Revised Statutes, by changing the due date of the 1st Preliminary Primary Report from "July 31 of the election year" to "thirty calendar days prior to a primary election." Act 126, Sess. Laws Haw. 2010, advanced the date of the primary election from the last Saturday in September to the second Saturday in August. Thus, if the due date for the 1st Preliminary Primary Report is not also advanced, in election years such as this year, candidates will have back-to-back reporting deadlines of July 31st and August 1st to file the 1st Preliminary Primary Report and the 2nd Preliminary Primary Report, respectively.

Section 1 of the bill also amends §11-334(a)(4), to more clearly align the law with present practice. Presently, every candidate files the Supplemental Report that is due on January 31st every year and not just on January 31st of an election year. This bill would delete "after an election year" from the statutory provision.



House JUD Committee Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads

Tuesday 1/24/12 at 2:00PM in Room 325 HB 1927 – Campaign Spending Commission Law

TESTIMONY Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 1927, which changes the date of campaign spending reports.

This change is necessary due to the new earlier Primary Election date in August 2012. Moving up the deadline for the first preliminary report is important to ensure disclosure and transparency, and avoid the redundancy of having two reporting deadlines only one day apart.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.